

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This Listing of Claims will replace all prior versions and listing of claims to the subject Patent Application. Please make the following changes to the claims.

Listing of Claims:

1 – 9 (Canceled).

10. (Previously Presented) A pit furnace closing system, comprising:

- a furnace structure having an opening at an upper end thereof;
- two beams disposed in spaced parallel relation above the furnace structure;
- stainless steel bars supported over said beams;
- pieces of cloth wrap for high temperature being used to close the furnace; and,
- a support device with a superior portion extending out of the furnace structure, the superior portion being substantially removed from the heat of the furnace structure, wherein, parts to be tempered are suspended on an inferior portion of the support device inside the furnace.

11. (Currently Amended) The pit furnace closing system, according to claim 10, the furnace structure further comprising thermopairs having heating ends disposed in a center of a heating zone.

12. (Currently Amended) The pit furnace closing system, according to claim 10, wherein the two beams are not submitted to the heat and remain substantially at an ambient temperature.

13. (Currently Amended) The pit furnace closing system, according to claim 10, the furnace structure providing for oil heating and having a rectangular format, an inner surface of the furnace structure being coated with refractory bricks fixed with stainless steel pins, wherein an inferior end of each pin is welded to an inferior plate of the furnace structure and a superior end is welded to a superior plate.

14. (Currently Amended) The pit furnace closing system, according to claim 10, wherein, an opening defined between the beams is covered with wraps and the wraps are supported over the stainless steel bars.

15. (Currently Amended) The pit furnace closing system, according to claim 10, wherein, an opening defined between the beams is closed with stainless steel coin screen plates, with holes therebetween being filled in with wraps, and supported over stainless steel bars.

16. (Previously Presented) A pit furnace closing system, comprising:

a furnace structure having an opening at an upper end thereof;

two beams disposed in spaced parallel relation above the furnace structure;

a planar stainless steel screen supported on the two beams and having a through-hole formed therethrough; and,

a support device hanging from the planar stainless steel screen with a superior portion extending out of the furnace structure, the superior portion being substantially removed from the heat of the furnace structure, wherein, parts to be tempered are suspended on an inferior portion of the support device inside the furnace.

17. (Previously Presented) The pit furnace closing system, according to claim 16, the furnace structure further comprising thermopairs having heating ends disposed in a center of a heating zone.

18. (Previously Presented) The pit furnace closing system, according to claim 16, wherein the two beams are not submitted to the heat and remain substantially at an ambient temperature.

19. (Previously Presented) The pit furnace closing system, according to claim 16, the furnace structure providing for oil heating and having a rectangular

format, an inner surface of the furnace structure being coated with refractory bricks fixed with stainless steel pins, wherein an inferior end of each pin is welded to an inferior plate of the furnace structure and a superior end is welded to a superior plate.

20. (Previously Presented) The pit furnace closing system, according to claim 16, wherein gaps between the through-hole and the support device being filled in with wraps.

21. (Previously Presented) A pit furnace closing system, comprising:

- a furnace structure having an opening at an upper end thereof;
- two beams disposed in spaced parallel relation above the furnace structure;
- a bipartite lid having a cut;
- a planar stainless steel screen formed to mate with the cut of the bipartite lid, the planar stainless steel screen having a through-hole formed therethrough; and,

- a support device hanging from the planar stainless steel screen with a superior portion extending out of the furnace structure, the superior portion being substantially removed from the heat of the furnace structure, wherein, parts to be

tempered are suspended on an inferior portion of the support device inside the furnace.

22. (Previously Presented) The pit furnace closing system, according to claim 21, the furnace structure further comprising thermopairs having heating ends disposed in a center of a heating zone.

23. (Previously Presented) The pit furnace closing system, according to claim 21, wherein the two beams are not submitted to the heat and remain substantially at an ambient temperature.

24. (Previously Presented) The pit furnace closing system, according to claim 21, the furnace structure providing for oil heating and having a rectangular format, an inner surface of the furnace structure being coated with refractory bricks fixed with stainless steel pins, wherein an inferior end of each pin is welded to an inferior plate of the furnace structure and a superior end is welded to a superior plate.

25. (Previously Presented) The pit furnace closing system, according to claim 21, wherein gaps between the through-hole and the support device being filled in with wraps.

26. (Previously Presented) The pit furnace closing system, according to claim 21, wherein in the case of two supporting devices being employed for supporting the parts, a plate being interposed in coplanar arrangement between the two supporting devices.